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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The incompatibility between democracy and racism

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Addendum

1. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2001/43, invited the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit an analytical report on the subject of "The incompatibility between democracy and racism". The report (E/CN.4/2002/69) has been submitted to the Commission at its present session. In addition to the replies reflected in Part III of the report, a reply has also been received from the Government of South Africa. The reply is summarized below.

2. South Africa has instituted constitutional measures, legislation, policies and practices to combat racism and racial discrimination. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) has eliminated the core notion of the racist base which underpinned apartheid, and instead enshrines the rights of all South Africans and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. The Equality Act 2000 provides that neither the State nor any person may unfairly discriminate against any person. It outlaws any form of racism, including racial incitement, dissemination of ideas suggesting inferiority or superiority of any group of people, racially exclusive practices, or the use of hurtful and abusive language. The Government has implemented a number of policies to address the inequities of the past and has established monitoring bodies which work, inter alia, to combat racism and racial discrimination.

3. South Africa no longer has political parties with clearly racist platforms. All major parties have at least some supporters from every racial group and most attempt to broaden their support to encompass all such groups. Some very small non-violent groups still advocate self-determination for the Afrikaner group. The Government maintains a dialogue with representatives of this viewpoint and has declared its willingness to accommodate their projects so long as these do not clash with the fundamental non-racial principles of the new South African system.

4. The Government of South Africa remains concerned about racism, racially motivated violence, or unfair discrimination, both in South Africa and elsewhere in the world. Bearing this in mind, it agreed to host the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and worked to ensure a successful outcome. The Government speaks out strongly whenever necessary against continuing occurrences of racism.